

# Resource consents

**The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is responsible for controlling activities that may affect the environment. It does this through rules in Regional Plans.**

Some activities are allowed as of right and have no rules limiting them. The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) specifies how activities can be controlled and managed through rules and resource consents.

The Regional Council is working with the Lake Rotorua Stakeholder Advisory Group to develop new land use rules for the Lake Rotorua catchment. These land use rules will set out what levels of nitrogen losses are allowed in the catchment and will rely on a new resource consent system.

## What is a resource consent?

Resource consents are used to manage the impact certain activities have on people and the environment.

Basically, a consent is an approval to undertake certain activities identified in rules as having an impact on the environment.

When resource consents are granted they specify the length of time an activity can be carried out and any specific conditions that need to be met.

## About resource consent types

The RMA has six classifications of resource consents – Permitted, Controlled, Restricted discretionary, Discretionary, Non-complying and Prohibited

Rules in plans determine the classification of any activities and whether a resource consent is needed (see the table on the following page).

### Want to know more about resource consents?

- Contact the Regional Council on 0800 884 880
- Visit [www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday/consent-apply](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday/consent-apply)

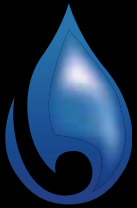


Ko te wai te ora o  
ngā mea katoa

Water is the life  
giver of all things

Fact sheets in this series:

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## ROTORUA TE ARAWA LAKES PROGRAMME

For more information  
call 0800 884 880 or  
[rotorualakes.co.nz](http://rotorualakes.co.nz)

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Activity Classification	Consent required	Consent must be granted	Consent can be granted	Explanation
<b>Permitted</b>	No	N/A	N/A	<p>This classification is used for activities deemed to have a minor effect on the resource used or the environment.</p> <p>Activities can occur 'as of right' without the need to obtain a resource consent, provided they comply with the conditions stated in the rule.</p>
<b>Controlled</b>	Yes	Yes	N/A	<p>This classification provides certainty to landowners as resource consents must be granted if all rule conditions are met.</p> <p>The rules must specify any requirements, conditions (terms, standards, restrictions, and prohibitions), and permissions with which the activity must comply.</p>
<b>Restricted Discretionary</b>	Yes	No	Yes	<p>Restricted discretionary activities are those for which the Council has restricted the exercise of its discretion. This means the Council limits the range of matters it considers when deciding to grant a resource consent and conditions must be relevant to the matters to which it has restricted its discretion.</p> <p>Restricted discretionary rules are helpful where Council wants to focus on the management of a specific type of activity that has a narrow set of effects on the environment.</p>
<b>Discretionary</b>	Yes	No	Yes	<p>Activities specified as discretionary activities are those which require a resource consent but Council has retained its full discretion about whether it will grant or deny the resource consent.</p> <p>Discretionary activities are useful where the effects of the activity are so variable it is not possible to prescribe standards to control them in advance.</p>
<b>Non-Complying</b>	Yes	No	Yes	<p>Activities specified as non-complying are those which require resource consent but the Council may only grant consent if the application meets the RMA "minor effect" criteria and the objectives and policies of the regional plan.</p> <p>The non-complying activity class is useful for situations where it is intended that consents only be granted in exceptional circumstances.</p>
<b>Prohibited</b>	N/A	N/A	No	<p>Activities specified as prohibited may not occur and no resource consent can be granted for these activities.</p> <p>Prohibiting any activity sends a strong message that Council will not even consider the activity.</p>